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DD/P/1-4264

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT: Proposed Basic Area Training Program

REFERENCE: Memorandum from DTR, dated 2 Dec 54, Subject: Proposed Basic Area Training Program

1. To function effectively as an Intelligence Officer or to function in support of intelligence operations, in addition to sound training in intelligence techniques and tradecraft, intelligence personnel must have a basic understanding of the country and the people against which their efforts are directed. Too often, Case Officers who are operationally sound endanger the success of an operation because of their lack of understanding of the culture, religion, etc. of the persons with whom they are dealing. Any effort to provide our personnel with an understanding of foreign peoples is welcome.

2. Language training, too, is a necessary adjunct to effective operations, and we encourage our personnel to acquire certain language proficiencies as an essential element of their career development programs.

3. In answer to the specific questions raised in paragraph 6 of the referenced memorandum, the following comments are noted:

a. Your proposed program omits a portion of the population which should also receive basic orientation in this subject. We would suggest the following categories:

1) General Area Orientation of twenty hours part-time for all non-professional personnel assigned to headquarters in an Area Division.

2) Basic Country Survey Courses as outlined in Tab A for professional personnel assigned to headquarters. This should be a part-time course, one or two hours per day, two or three times a week.

3) An Americans Abroad Course for all personnel, professional as well as clerical, assigned to overseas duty in the specific area for the first time. This should also include the adult dependents of the personnel concerned and should, if possible, include some very basic language orientation. We suggest that this be a full-time course of approximately forty hours.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: [redacted]

Date: 17 JAN 78 By: [redacted]

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4) The Integrated Program should include all professional personnel going overseas who have not already completed the Basic Country Survey Course and the Americans Abroad Course for the country concerned. Those professional personnel who have completed these two courses could be scheduled for the language portions of the program only.

b. We envision this as a start only, in the field of area and language training, and shall, as our career development plans mature, endeavor to provide you with additional guidance and recommendations along these lines.

c. These programs could well be worked into our qualifying training standards. However, the same rules should apply here as do apply to staff training requirements. It should be flexible enough to permit waiver and constructive credit where an individual's previous background and experience warrant such action. Similarly, we must expect that circumstances will arise which do not permit compliance with this requirement. By and large however, the bulk of our personnel should be expected to receive this training just as they are expected to receive staff training. To establish a hard and fast requirement at this time would, however, be unwise until OTR is able to offer complete DD/P coverage which, according to your estimates, might require three years or more.

d. Concerning priorities, the matter of stating the specific order by country for which this training should be produced is not something that can be ascertained without careful study. The line that our initial efforts should follow is clearly defined by the current world situation. Our need to know related to our general lack of knowledge of the various areas throughout the world make the Far East and specifically South East Asia our primary interest for such a program, with the Soviet Union running a close second. It must be made clear that we are not speaking of intelligence coverage as a matter of priority but rather of plain, everyday knowledgeability of the area and peoples.

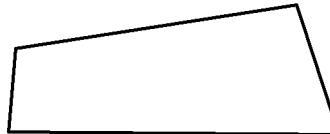
e. Staff requirements for such training are minimal. There are within the FI Staff complex three units with personnel who are identified with a specific country or region. The breakdown within these units is such that certain of the country desks are represented by as few as two persons whereas others have as many as eight or ten persons on the desk. On this basis it is difficult to state even generally that they can produce one or two or three registrants for any given period. Each of the three units do agree that such a program as the

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Basic Country Survey courses would be very valuable to them and should such courses be offered, they would surely take advantage of them. From a staff point of view we anticipate no requirements for the Americans Abroad Courses or the Integrated Courses.

Richard Helms
Chief of Operations, DD/P



Chief
Foreign Intelligence

FI Trng/BMR/eb (4 Jan 55)

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